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The Children's Newspaper, Week Ending May 19, 1956

OUT WITH THE PONY CLUB—Page 5

Children's Newspaper

Every Wednesday—Threepence | FOUNDED BY ARTHUR MEE | No. 1939, May 19, 1956

YOUNGEST IN THE TEAM

Girl golf champion to play for Britain against the United States

By a CN Correspondent

CONSTANT practice lies behind the success of Angela Ward, who is just nineteen and the youngest member of the team chosen to represent Britain against the United States in the Curtis Cup golf match next month. Every day when she is not engaged in match or competition play she takes some forty golf balls on to the course and keeps on hitting them, anything up to three hundred times.

Angela also has an ability to discern what is necessary—an ability which began to develop when she was barely 13. On one of those idle days during the school holidays Angela accompanied her parents round the golf course. Her interest at that time was ballet dancing, and at first she thought golf boring.

Soon, however, she began to take notice of the number of her parents' mishits, and she decided she could do very much better.

Angela Ward

Equipped with a set of cut-down clubs, she began to take lessons.

Incidentally, she thinks it a great pity that children are not more widely encouraged to take up golf, say, at the age of ten or eleven, by making clubs of a suitable size easily available.

Within two years Angela was playing in the Kent Juniors competition, and in 1952 and 1953 she began to make her mark in the British Girls' championships.

SEMI-FINAL NERVES

Last year she not only won the girls' title, but in the semi-final of the ladies' championship led Mrs. Roy Smith, the reigning champion, to the seventeenth hole.

One hole up, Angela needed only to sink a putt from five feet for the match. Nine times out of ten she would have done so with ease, but at that critical moment, overawed perhaps by the sense of occasion, she missed and Mrs. Smith won the match at the nineteenth. As a consolation, however, Angela won the German and Swedish ladies' open championships, and finished runner-up in Norway.

Outwardly she always appears calm and self-possessed, and some critics have described her as being devoid of nerves. That might have been true at first, but not since she began to appreciate the finer points of the game and her handicap dropped from 27 to 4.

PROBLEMS OF SUCCESS

"It's impossible not to suffer from nerves," says Angela, "because golf is a mental as well as a physical battle. And the more successful you become, the more conscious you are of the need to uphold your record. You haven't had to worry before about coming a cropper."

The problem, common to all forms of international sport, must become more acute now that Curtis Cup selection places a national responsibility upon her. But Angela's outlook on golf—her flair for seeing what the situation needs and her concentration—will keep those match nerves under control.

Although a natural golfer, Angela has concentrated on an orthodox style. Last year when her back swing was criticised, she practised and practised on that one point until she had got rid of the fault.

A BAD STROKE WAITING!

Her drive, in particular, is one of her strong points. She hits the ball with a great clubhead speed, and sends it, straight and accurately, distances up to 250 yards according to weather conditions.

"The main satisfaction," says Angela, "is not just the drive, but the scope golf gives for a sense of achievement."

With a philosophy beyond her years, she adds: "Golf's rather like the human character. There has to be constant application of mind and skill to keep the faults subjected. If you're not careful, they'll crop up when you least want them to. There's always the bad stroke waiting."

Four wheels to the Olympics

Two young Australians have set off from London on motor scooters to reach their homeland in time for the Olympics. They are Phil Worrall and Fay Kelaher and they have 18,000 miles to cover, travelling by way of India and then by sea to Darwin and so finally to Melbourne.

CHARGED BY A GORILLA

Gorillas are strictly protected in Uganda, where the Game Department maintains a sanctuary for them in part of the Western Province known as the Impenetrable Forest.

Two European agricultural officers were passing the Sanctuary recently when they met a troop of five or six gorillas, partly hidden by the dense foliage and tree ferns. The Europeans, accompanied by their African guides, unwisely drew nearer.

The men had just started to give chase when they were frozen in their tracks by a loud roaring yell. A big male gorilla appeared, took one look at the party and charged at them on all fours.

The gorilla gathered speed as he raced downhill towards the men, but to their great relief he seemed deliberately to charge a gap in their ranks and carried straight on through. Either his momentum was too great, or he was as scared as the officers and guides!

Gorillas sometimes repeat their charges. But this one decided to call it a day. After all, he had succeeded in performing his duty as rearguard to a family group in protecting them from the inquisitive, no matter how innocent their intentions. And the agricultural officers meant no harm.

But that, of course, would be a little difficult to explain to a conscientious gorilla.

The Impenetrable Forest is in the mountainous district of Kigezi.

ANTARCTICA'S FIRST HANGAR

The Antarctic's first aircraft hangar has just been built by the Australian expedition at Mawson.

The all-steel construction was completed under terrible conditions. At one point during the work the temperature fell to 20 degrees below freezing.

The hangar contains two aircraft which the party are using for their explorations.

LIGHTS O' BLACKPOOL

A Leeds journalist who was summoned at Blackpool for parking his car without lights sent the following rhymed message to the court:

Please forgive my fulminations,
But really it's a pity.
Blackpool has the illuminations,
Leeds is the more enlightened city.

The solicitor told the Bench that parking without lights was allowed in Leeds. But the journalist was fined 10s.

OLDEST AIRCRAFT STILL FLYING

What is claimed to be the world's oldest aircraft still flying entertained many thousands of people at an air pageant near Melbourne recently.

It was a Farman Shorthorn, made of spruce and timber and stayed with piano wires, which first flew in 1914. It had been stored for years, and was tracked down by an Australian manufacturing engineer, Mr. Fred Edwards. It belonged to Mr. Graham Carey, now 80 years old, who used to fly it all over Australia 30 years ago. Mr. Edwards found bits and pieces of the plane stored all over Mr. Carey's home, and patiently put them together.

It took three years and 6000 working hours to get the plane into flying shape again.

There is only one pilot in Australia whose commercial pilot's licence will allow him to fly the old box-kite aircraft, and even he insists that the weather must be calm.

FEATHER IN HIS HAT

A Scout Commissioner from Edinburgh was at the Tussaud waxworks in Blackpool looking at the figure of Lord Baden-Powell there. He felt that something was wrong and realised that the hat plume was on the right side instead of the left.

The Commissioner called the attention of an attendant to the error, and now Lord Baden-Powell's plume is on the left side, where it ought to be.

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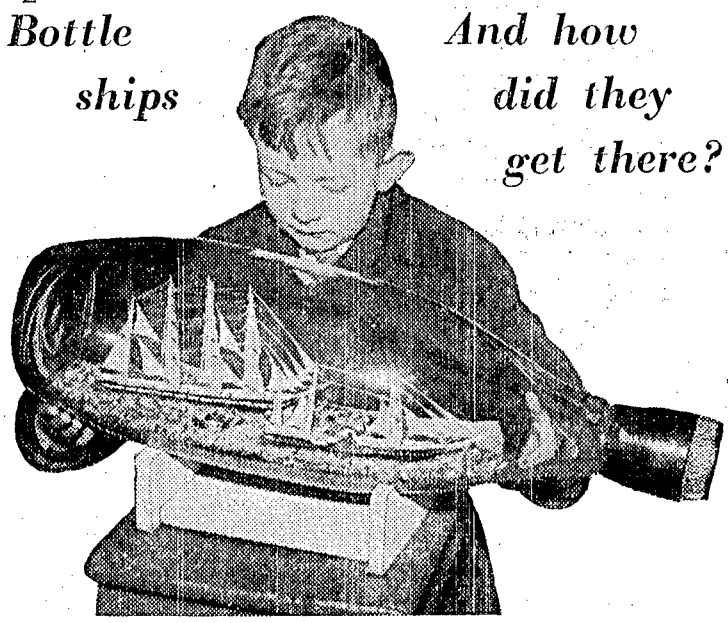
Bottle ships And how did they get there?



These models of a four-masted barque and an early Cunard liner are on view at the Shipping Exhibition at Southend. And four-year-old Trevor Speed of Benfleet, Essex, is puzzling over how they ever got into that bottle.

HISTORY ON HASSOCKS

The fame of Old Chelsea

Chelsea Old Church, overlooking the Thames, was destroyed by bombs in 1941, together with many of its memorials. Now it is being rebuilt, and hassocks or kneelers are being specially embroidered to preserve the old associations.

Many hours of patient work have been spent in collecting and assembling the fragments of the memorials.

The designs from many of them have been embroidered on the hassocks by people associated with Chelsea, in some cases by bearers of great names, in others by descendants of those who are being commemorated anew in this unique way.

Many and varied are the memories of old Chelsea revived by these hassocks. One of them is a reminder that the hapless Jane Seymour was married to Henry VIII in Chelsea Church. Others recall famous residents of Chelsea, such as Sir Thomas More and the poet John Donne. A lesser mortal, no less interesting, in old Chelsea's story is Ann Chamberlayne, who fought "in manly attire" in a naval battle against the French in 1690.

Chelsea's links with America are also recalled. There was, for instance, Captain Robert Gorges who went with another Chelsea man to Massachusetts—to the estate of Winnisimmit, whose name was changed to Chelsea. The links were further strengthened when Philadelphia Freame, granddaughter of William Penn, came to this country and married Viscount Cremorne, who had an estate at Chelsea, which later became the famous Cremorne Gardens.

To raise funds for the rebuilding of the church, these hassocks of history are being exhibited at the Royal Hospital, Chelsea, from May 22 until June 9. Admission costs half-a-crown, but only one shilling for children accompanied by adults or in a party.

WITH THE PEARS CAME A NOTE

When a crate of New Zealand pears was opened in a fruiterer's at Whitby the other day a note from the New Zealand boy packer came to light. Signed by 17-year-old Michael Taylor, of Hastings, Hawkes Bay, the note stated that he hoped to come to England when he had enough money and asked the finder to write to him.

The finder was Mr. Arthur Simpson, and he has written to young Michael describing the Whitby district and life in Britain.

FINDING THE WAY

The "Directomat," a machine which helps strangers to reach their destination quickly, has recently been installed in New York's underground system.

On pushing the button with the number of the station he wishes to go to, the passenger receives a card with full directions.

THE C N HANDWRITING TEST

SCHOOLS taking part in this competition who have not already done so, are asked to get their entries completed and posted now—as arrangements are being made to speed the task of examination so that the results can be announced as early as possible after the closure.

Completed entry forms should be addressed to:

C N Writing Test 1956,
3 Pilgrim Street,
London, E.C.4 (Comp.).

Supplies of Children's Newspaper with the token are fully available again. If you cannot obtain a copy from your newsagent, kindly place an order with him immediately.

The Handwriting Test closes

FRIDAY, JUNE 1

Fighting blindness in Africa

Five years ago little was known about the blind people of West Africa, writes a C N correspondent who has recently been travelling in Africa. Now, largely owing to the British Empire Society for the Blind, plans are being made to prevent blindness, and to help the unfortunate thousands in West and Central Africa who are already blind.

In almost every West African village there are people who have become blind through the dirt-carrying flies which breed in the rivers and swamps. A few blind people have always been accepted as part of the general life of every place but little was done to help them.

In one Nigerian village, our correspondent met an old blind man on the roadside carrying two parcels. He looked intelligent and told his story with liveliness. Blindness had come on him as a boy and he had accepted his fate calmly.

MUCH IN DEMAND

In one parcel he had a braille typewriter. He had been taught to use it and so he wrote letters for his village and this made him popular and much in demand. In the other parcel he had a copy of St. John's Gospel which he read out to groups of neighbours in the evening. He was wanted everywhere he went because he could read and write—in spite of his blindness.

Mr. John Wilson, Secretary of the British Empire Society for the Blind, wishes to give every blind African an opportunity to be a useful citizen. It is known that about one-third of the sightless are of working age and if given a chance can become important members of their community.

Just outside Accra in the Gold Coast is the Akropong Blind School, where blind children are taught to be weavers, tanners, bricklayers, tailors, and shorthand-typists. Through use of their hands they enter into the secrets of many of the trades and professions which would appear to have been closed to them. Patience and clever teaching set them free.

THIRTY NEW CENTRES

In Northern Rhodesia and Kenya two blind schools have been started which are the forerunners of over thirty new centres for the blind in Central Africa. A sum of over £40,000 has been collected in Britain for them. This is the biggest plan to attack blindness anywhere in the world at the moment.

Whole swampy areas are being drained, and the "blindness fly" is being tracked down to its breeding grounds. Mr. Wilson believes that over 1200 of the blind people of West Africa can become happy and prosperous as farmers, fishermen, or village craftsmen. And he is leading a campaign against a dread danger—one more way in which the skill of the European is serving Africa.

News from Everywhere

MORE BRITISH OIL

Plans have been made for another 50 oil wells to be drilled at Egmanton, Nottinghamshire. About 1000 tons a month are being produced from wells already in operation.

The United States Air Force is to subscribe to the fund for restoring St. Clement Danes, the R.A.F. Central Church in London.

Iraq's first T V station has been opened at Baghdad. It has British equipment and many of the programmes are B B C and I T A productions.

Prince in the gym

Crown Prince Carl Gustav of Sweden recently celebrated his tenth birthday. He is seen here in the gymnasium of a school in Stockholm.

A giant new shipping terminus costing 16 million dollars is to be built in New York harbour. Square-shaped, it will accommodate four ships at once.

People in Britain read more newspapers and go to the cinema more often than any other nation, says a United Nations survey.

ANCIENT MASS PRODUCTION

A recent discovery at Pakenham, Suffolk, shows that mass production is as old as the Romans. A kiln unearthed in a gravel pit has a complicated system of hot air channels which enabled 600 pots to be baked at a time.

A marble plaque in memory of the late Viscount Camrose has been unveiled by Sir Winston Churchill in the crypt of St. Paul's Cathedral.

NEW ANTARCTIC RANGE

A new range of mountains with peaks up to 13,000 feet has been discovered by the Australian Antarctic Expedition based at Mawson.

The Forestry Commission is to plant five million acres of trees in Britain in the next 50 years.

WELCOME TO ARRAN

The Isle of Arran, gem of the Firth of Clyde, is holding a Welcome Week from June 2 to 9. A big programme of special events will provide added attractions for visitors.

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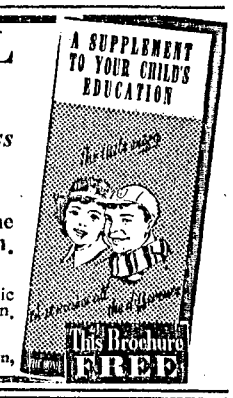

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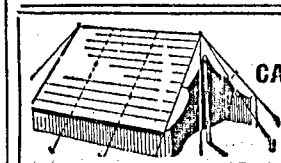

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Just two tiny kids

Two kids were recently born in the only herd of African pygmy goats in the country, owned by Mrs. Larcombe at her farm at Wraysbury, Buckinghamshire. She intends presenting them to the London Zoo when they are older.

CHILDREN'S VILLAGE

Between Bridge of Weir and Kilmacolm, in Renfrewshire, is a children's village complete with a church, school, and shops.

The children live in little cottages under the care of a house-father and mother and they have their own sweet and fruit shop, and their very own savings bank. Known as the Orphan Homes of Scotland, it is a lasting memorial to a kindly Scotsman, William Quarrier.

In the thirties of last century he was a little barefoot boy whose only playground was the pavement of the busy High Street, near his home in a Glasgow slum tenement.

At the age of seven William became apprenticed to a shoemaker. Then, when he grew up, he became a successful business man and the owner of many shoe shops in the city.

But he never forgot his boyhood hardships. And, all his life, he retained a great sympathy for the poor and destitute children.

LEFT IN THE BUS

Londoners are becoming less forgetful. London Transport reports that passengers left 457,000 articles in buses and on the Underground in 1955—quite a lot, but 19,000 fewer than in the previous year.

Gloves were the most frequently forgotten, no fewer than 122,000 of them; then came 62,000 umbrellas, and 61,000 coats and other articles of clothing.

More than a third of the articles were returned to owners.

NEW TOWNS FOR WEST BENGAL

Five new towns and a number of new villages are to be built in West Bengal, a province of the Indian Union. They are to house the Indian refugees from Pakistan, many of whom are still homeless.

Thousands of refugees are arriving every month, and 80,000 acres of new land are to be opened up for cultivation.

RAILPLANE THAT NEVER RAN

At Milngavie, near Glasgow, a strange, rusty object which has been hanging from a rail above a siding for 27 years is at last to be broken up.

Built rather like the gondola of an airship, this was once to be the car of a revolutionary overhead railway which, it was claimed, would do the 50-mile journey between Glasgow and Edinburgh in 20 minutes.

But the plan never got farther than the building of this single car with its handsome mahogany lining, though the sponsors claimed that theirs was the ideal way to carry passengers, and that it would leave existing railways clear for carrying goods.

Now the Milngavie railplane, invented by a Rothesay man called George Bennie, is being broken up for scrap.

Thus comes the sad end of an ambitious dream.

50 YEARS A COUNCILLOR

Mr. R. B. Martin has been a member of the Stroud Rural Council, Gloucestershire, for 50 years, and no one has ever been put up in opposition to him. At a council dinner in his honour the other day one of the speakers said that he had contributed more hours to public work than any other man living.

LOTS OF PEOPLE

There are more people in the world than ever before. The latest figures show that the population reached 2652 millions in the middle of 1954, and that over half of them live in Asia.

China leads, with 582 millions, then comes India (377 millions), the Soviet Union (214 millions), and the United States (162 millions).

In every country for which figures are given, women live longer than men. The life expectation at birth in England and Wales is for men 67.3 years and for women 72.44 years.

FOR THE GREAT OUTDOORS

All campers and hikers in search of a trustworthy guide in all their problems are recommended to get a copy of Camp and Trek, by Jack Cox (Lutterworth Press, 12s. 6d.).

Even in Britain's gentle open spaces holidays can be harsh to those who seek them unprepared. But Mr. Cox's book shows how to get the best out of them. Well illustrated with photos and drawings, it is a storehouse of information on camping, cycling, canoeing, way-finding, weather lore, bird and animal watching, and on many other excitements awaiting the adventurous town-dweller.

DOG SHOW JUDGE AT 18

Judge at a dog show at 18 years of age is the proud achievement of Cicely Edmondson, of Tillotson Farm, near Keighley, Yorks. She judged the six classes at Hebden Bridge Canine Society's show.

Cicely owned her first dog at the age of three. As a schoolgirl she won many handling classes with her father's setters and pointers. She was only 16 when she won her first Kennel Club challenge certificate.

Today Cicely works as a kennel-maid in Skipton.

YOUNG SURREY ARTISTS

The Addiscombe Children Art Group, who have been going strong since their foundation in 1953, are to hold a big three-day Exhibition at Croydon from May 24 to 26. Mr. Vincent Ball, the popular compère of Junior TV, is to open it, and the money raised will be given to the British Red Cross.

Mrs. Margaret Male, who founded the Group, is also organising a Commonwealth Children Art Exhibition, which will be held at Croydon in September.

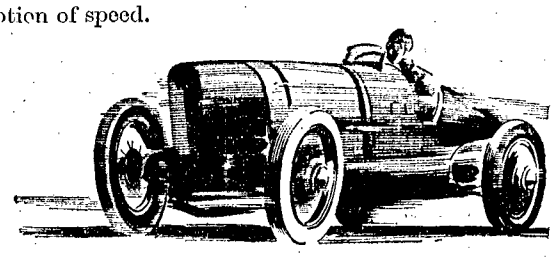
Young bowman of Windsor

On June 9 the Windsor Forest Bowmen will entertain archers from at least 26 countries at the largest international tournament ever held in this country. Among those taking part will be 12-year-old Frank Smith and his father.

Speed on wheels

No. 1

The year is 1924. The idol of the crowd at Brooklands race track is Captain (later Sir) Malcolm Campbell. But Campbell had an ambition which extended far beyond Brooklands. He aimed to reach the magic speed of 150 m.p.h. Soon he had raised the world's land speed record to 146.16 m.p.h. at Pendine in Wales. But the magic "one-fifty" still eluded him. In 1925 he returned to Pendine, determined to succeed. Twice his great V.12 engined Sunbeam, fitted with Dunlop tyres, tore across the measured distance. As he climbed exhausted from the cock-pit the timekeepers declared an average speed of 150.87 m.p.h. Malcolm Campbell had given the world a new conception of speed.



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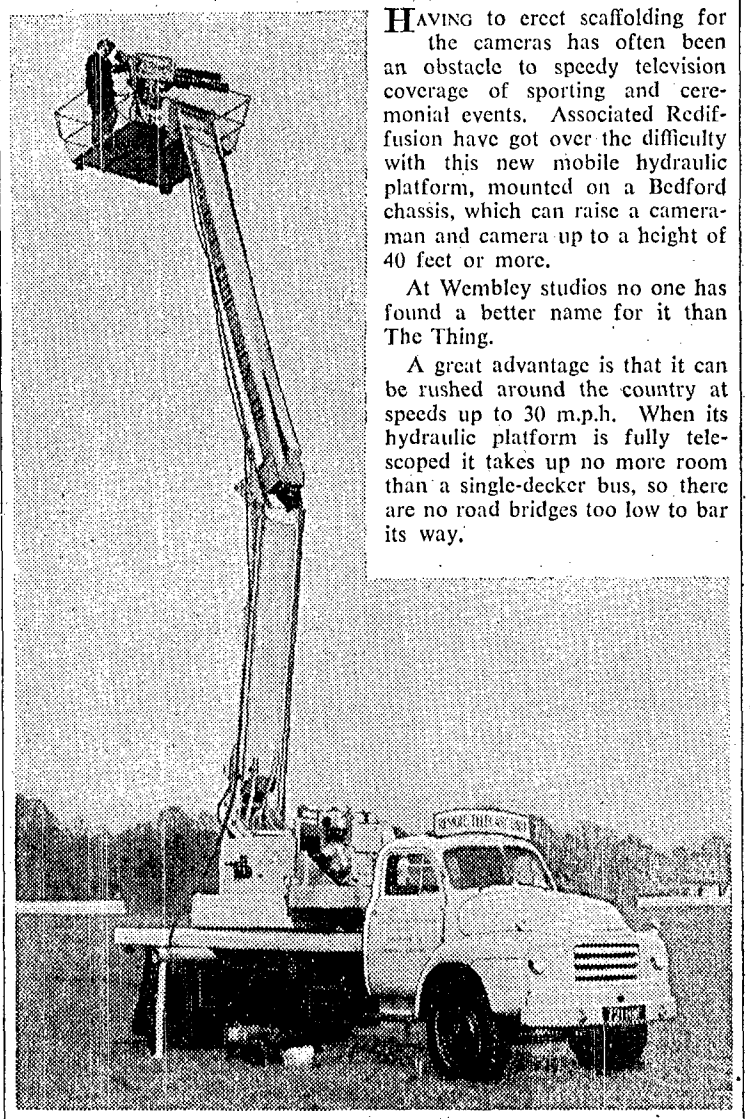
RISING TO GREAT HEIGHTS ON THE THING



HAVING to erect scaffolding for the cameras has often been an obstacle to speedy television coverage of sporting and ceremonial events. Associated Rediffusion have got over the difficulty with this new mobile hydraulic platform, mounted on a Bedford chassis, which can raise a cameraman and camera up to a height of 40 feet or more.

At Wembley studios no one has found a better name for it than The Thing.

A great advantage is that it can be rushed around the country at speeds up to 30 m.p.h. When its hydraulic platform is fully telescoped it takes up no more room than a single-decker bus, so there are no road bridges too low to bar its way.

From the Channel Islands

THOSE of you going to the Channel Islands this summer may be seen by viewers in Britain. It will be a roundabout BBC transmission made possible with the help of the French television service.

Mr. Desmond Hawkins, of the BBC's West Region, recently discussed the project in France, and in July it is hoped to present programmes from Guernsey, Sark, and Herm.

The pictures will pass from the transmitter at Les Platons, Jersey, to Cherbourg, thence by radio to Deauville and Paris, and so to Britain by the Eurovision link. A BBC mobile television unit will be used on the Islands.

Wimbledon viewpoint

THE BBC is erecting an extra high tower at Wimbledon this year so that, for the first time, every one of the courts will be in TV camera range during the Lawn Tennis championships which take place in June.

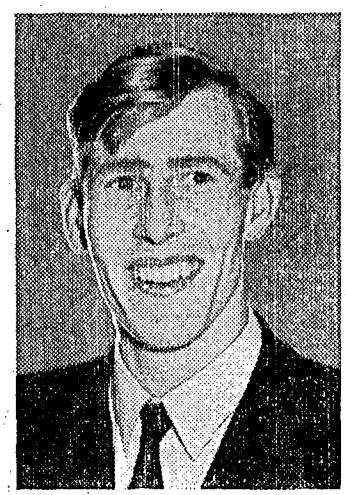
School TV soon

MISS ENID LOVE, who will be in charge of BBC TV transmissions to schools, tells me she is hoping the first lessons will begin in September 1957, between 2 and 2.30 in the afternoon. Probable subjects will be science and international affairs.

It is not known yet how many schools are likely to be equipped for the new service, but they will be distributed fairly evenly up and down the country. One interesting problem yet to be solved is whether classes will be served best by one big screen or a number of smaller ones.

Roger Bannister as commentator

ROGER BANNISTER, who recently signed a contract with the BBC for TV sports broadcasting, will be giving his first commentaries on Saturday and again on Whit Monday, at the British Games in the White City Stadium, London. Dr. Bannister will take turns at the microphone with Michael Henderson.



Practical girls

GIRLS produce more practical ideas than boys, and in greater detail. That is the opinion of Robert Ryerson, who is conducting Write It Yourself, in Associated-Rediffusion on alternate Thursdays. The under-16's are now being asked to produce ideas for the next serial instead of writing suggestions for the next instalment of Peter in the Air.

"The boys," says Mr. Ryerson, "are inclined to be too expansive and fanciful. They want big battles between good and bad Indians."

The Peter in the Air serial has been bringing in highly imaginative and original ideas from viewers as young as seven. Writers whose ideas are used in whole or part get a prize.

Seeking gold with TV

WITH the name Gold Seeker proudly painted on her bows, a 78-ton ex-Admiralty salvage vessel, once discarded as a scrap, has set off from the Forth to salvage £2,000,000 in gold.

This fortune lies in the holds of the Australian clipper General Grant, which foundered 90 years ago off the Auckland Islands. The Gold Seeker is equipped with an underwater TV camera to help in locating the sunken ship.

Message from Wales

FRIDAY is Goodwill Day, when the children of Wales send their annual greetings in BBC Children's Hour to young people all over the world. Two Cardiff schoolchildren will speak the greetings, and we shall hear messages received from children in many countries.

Goodwill Day was founded by the Rev. Gwilym Davies, who died last year at the age of 75. He launched his first radio message on May 18, 1922—exactly 25 years after Marconi sent out the first radio message.

Apparently the only person to receive the goodwill message was the officer-in-charge at the high-power Eiffel Tower radio station in Paris. He re-transmitted it round the world.

A C or D C?

WHY have British Railways decided to use alternating current instead of direct current on all their electric lines? The reasons for this change of policy are to be explained in the BBC Home Service Science Survey on Thursday evening by G. H. Rawcliffe, Professor of Electrical Engineering at Bristol University. Science Survey is repeated on Saturday morning at 9.30.

ERNEST THOMSON

IT HAPPENED THIS WEEK

King of France stabbed

May 14, 1610—PARIS—King Henry IV of France was stabbed to death in a Paris street today.

The King was driving from the palace of the Louvre along the Rue de la Ferronnerie when a block in the traffic brought his carriage to a foot's pace.

The assassin, who had trailed the carriage from the palace, took this opportunity to leap forward, seize the King and strike him two blows with his dagger in the left side. The King died immediately.

The murderer, Francois Ravaillac, declares his intention was to strike down the man who was leading the Protestants to victory against the Catholic cause.

The King was due to leave Paris in four days' time to join his army at Chalons on the beginning of a new campaign which had, as its ultimate hope, the plan of freeing the Netherlands from Spanish rule. Only yesterday his Queen was crowned Regent of France to conduct affairs in his absence.

News of the King's death has plunged all France into mourning. Twenty-one years ago, when the King—then King Henry of Navarre—succeeded King Henry III as King of France, the country was impoverished by 30 years of civil and religious wars. During King Henry's reign France has become prosperous and united.

New Bible on sale

May 18, 1885—LONDON—Eager crowds are gathering tonight in the neighbourhood of Paternoster Row outside the publishing warehouses of the Oxford and Cambridge University presses at Amen Corner and Ave Maria Lane.

They are wholesale purchasers, messengers from booksellers and interested spectators awaiting the first issues of the new Revised Version of the Bible.

The publication marks the culmination of 15 years' work on the new Bible. In February 1870 the Convocation of Canterbury appointed a committee to consider the revision of the Authorised Version, and companies were formed to work on the revision simultaneously in Britain and the United States. The companies, comprised of the most learned Biblical scholars and religious leaders, completed the revision of the New Testament in 1881 after 407 meetings.

The revision of the whole Bible—to be issued to the public after midnight tonight—involved 792 days of work by the revisers.

The strictest precautions have been taken to prevent a single copy reaching the public before the time set for publication.

John of Gaunt marries

May 19, 1359—READING—In the Benedictine Abbey of Reading, the 19-year-old John of Gaunt, fourth son of King Edward III was today married to the beautiful Lady Blanche, daughter and heiress of Henry, Duke of Lancaster.

The young prince and earl was born in Ghent, during King Edward's campaigns in Flanders, which accounts for his popular name "John of Gaunt."

He has already taken part in three military expeditions. When he was 15 he went with his brother Lionel, Duke of Clarence, to France in the forces of Lady Blanche's father, and on that expedition he was knighted. Later the same year he went to Calais with his father on a brief raid into France.

Three years ago, when he went with his father into Scotland, he witnessed Edward Balliol surrender the Crown of Scotland to the English.

Lady Blanche's father, famous throughout Europe as a commander, has been described as "father of soldiers." As a young man he fought with the Crusaders in Prussia, Rhodes, Cyprus and Spain.

Shopping at school

Children at the new primary school at Putney Vale, London, can learn all about shopping in the classroom stores.

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HAPPY DAYS WITH THE PONY CLUB

"THERE'S likewise a wind on the heath. Life is very sweet, brother."

So wrote George Borrow. There's likewise the sight of a horse cantering across the heath, one which few of us fail to pause and admire.

The popularity of horse shows and jumping displays on television is further proof that most of us are attracted by the grace and beauty of a well-trained, well-ridden horse. Indeed, the names of some of these horses—Pat Smythe's Prince Hal and Colonel Llewellyn's Foxhunter, for instance—are as well known to young people as Black Bess and Trigger.

The interest of young people in riding is reflected in the ever-growing popularity of the Pony Club, which now has over 200 branches in Great Britain and a membership of more than 20,000, as well as a further 10,000 members in branches all over the world.

But what exactly is the Pony Club? That is best answered by the official statement of its aims. It was founded in 1928 "to encourage young people to ride and to learn to enjoy all kinds of sport connected with horses and riding; to provide instruction in riding and horsemastership, and to instil in members the proper care of their animals; to promote the highest ideal of sportsmanship, citizenship, and loyalty, thereby cultivating strength of character and self-discipline."

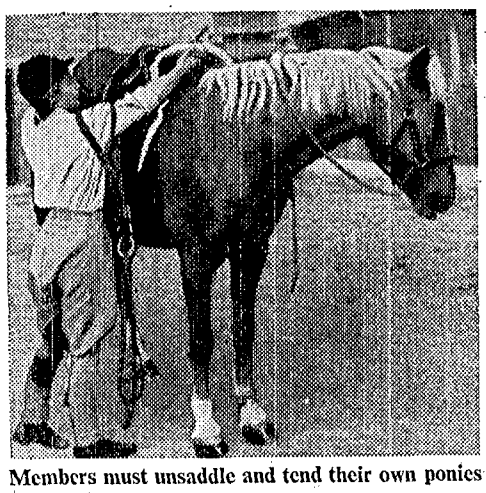
That sounds grand, you may say, but surely riding is an expensive sport? For townsfolk, of course, it is, but the Pony Club does everything possible to keep costs down, and it also ensures that you will get the most out of your riding.

Supposing you want to join your local branch. Providing you are

A drink for a thirsty mount

under 21 (there is no minimum age) you must first of all pay an entrance fee of 2s. 6d. and an annual subscription of six shillings. Jodhpurs and the essential hard hat cost about five pounds, although many of the branches have a clothing centre where second-hand gear may be bought and later on exchanged for bigger sizes.

Most country members have their own pony, or can borrow one, but in the town branches only a few have their own mount. Even so, they are able to join in a great number of the activities, for the Pony Club teaches much more than just how to sit on a horse.



Members must unsaddle and tend their own ponies

Many members hire their ponies for meetings or rallies, and in some cases share the cost with a couple of friends. Hire charges vary from about 5s. to 7s. 6d. an hour. If you do want your own pony, the cost would be between £35 and £60; saddlery would cost a further £20 new and about half that second-hand.

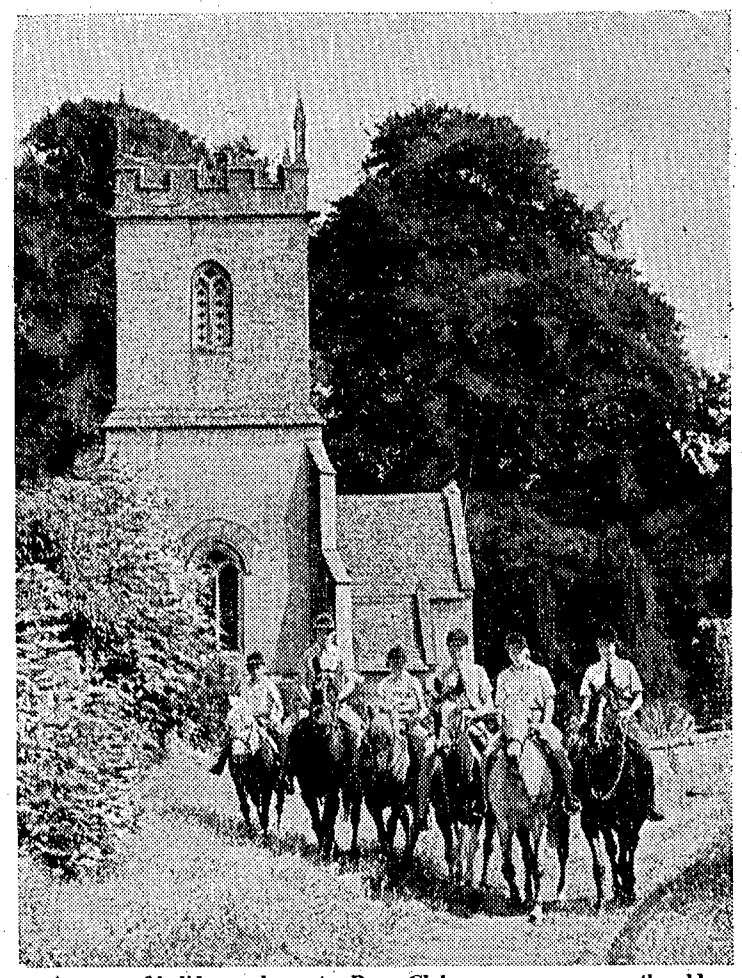
Some enthusiasts buy a moorland or forest pony, unbroken, for about £25 and school it themselves. But even under the guidance of an instructor the schooling of one of these ponies may take up to a year, during which time it can be handled only by an experienced rider.

To cater for members who do not have their own ponies, the town branches organise many unmounted events. A typical Easter holiday programme of the Wimbledon branch in south-west London, for example, shows four mounted rallies and three unmounting meetings. The latter include a visit to the Royal Cavalry Barracks at Windsor and a visit to Badminton to see the International Olympic Horse Trials. Lectures, film shows, and visits to stud farms and stables are also arranged.

At mounted rallies a certain amount of instruction is given. The instructors, all volunteers, divide the members into groups according to age and proficiency. One group may go off to the stables for feeding and grooming demonstrations; others will be learning about saddlery and equipment; or perhaps riding and jumping techniques. After the instruction period comes a spell of games, such as mounted follow-the-leader.

Members are also expected to try for the four proficiency certificates, ranging from the comparatively simple D standard to the advanced A Certificate. The holder of the A Certificate must be a first-class rider and jumper, able to feed, groom, and take entire care of a horse single-handed, and school a horse from the early stages up to an advanced standard of training; to be, in fact, an expert in all phases of horsemanship.

The event to which all members of the Pony Club eagerly look forward is the summer camp. Nearly every branch holds one during the school holidays, and applications are so great that numbers have to be limited, preference being given to members who have attended the most rallies and shown the greatest enthusiasm.



A group of holiday-makers at a Pony Club summer camp pass the old church at Colesbourne, Gloucestershire

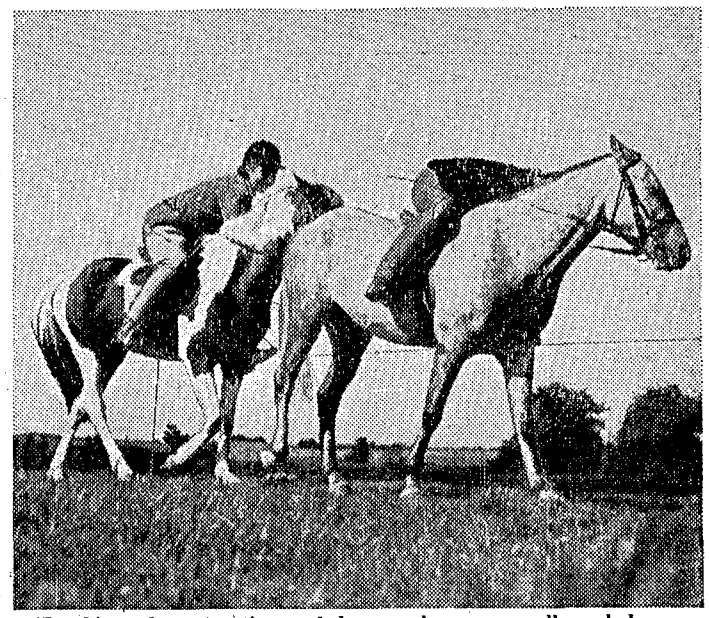
The cost of a week's camp varies from about £6 to £10, and in a suburban branch this may include the hire of a pony. And for those children who cannot afford the full amount the Pony Club is always prepared to help a little.

The accommodation for these camps varies; it may be in a hotel, in a country house lent by a patron of the Pony Club, or perhaps under canvas. But whatever the conditions, the activities in the summer camps are much the same, keeping everyone busy and happy the whole day through.

A typical day begins with early morning "stables"—mucking out and feeding the ponies—breakfast, making beds and tidying up. Then follows an hour or so spent in work grooming and preparing the ponies for the morning's ride (all children are responsible for grooming their mounts). An inspection of the ponies and tack follows; then riding instruction for an hour or so, watering and feeding the horses, and lunch. The afternoon programme is similar, with perhaps the addition of games or a competition, and a lecture or demonstration.

After the ponies have been watered, fed, and bedded down for the night the young enthusiasts can think about their own tea. Then, tired but happy, they gather round to clean their tack and talk about the adventures of the day, another full day in the never-to-be-forgotten summer camp.

A jumping session for members of the Stanmore branch at a summer camp near Aldenham, Hertfordshire



Touching alternate stirrups helps suppleness as well as balance

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Children's Newspaper
John Carpenter House
Whitefriars . London . EC4
MAY 19 1956

The Editor's Table

3000 GOOD BOOKS

THE task of selecting 3000 of the best books for young people sounds a formidable one. But it has been efficiently tackled by the National Book League, and the result is a School Library Exhibition which is now touring Britain.

It is pleasing to know that time-honoured favourites are prominent in the exhibition; the stories of Henty, Ballantyne, and Jules Verne are there with such classics as Black Beauty and Harrison Ainsworth's The Tower of London. These trusty veterans are still able to hold their own with the first-class modern books which are also on display.

And in the field of entertainment, all books, old or new, are still able to hold their own with the rival attractions of radio and television.

BUSY HANDS

EVENING classes are as popular as ever, particularly those in which household handicrafts are taught.

A Ministry of Education pamphlet shows that increasing numbers, young and old, spend their evenings learning to make things for the home, from kitchen gear to furniture. And, as Sir David Eccles has said, they are ready to pay for the fun of making things, just as they pay for a seat at the cinema.

More and more people are discovering the deep satisfaction as well as the fun that comes from doing things for themselves.

GRAND SEIGNEUR

SIR WINSTON CHURCHILL'S countrymen never tire of heaping honours on him; but the latest is unique. He has been made Grand Seigneur of the Company of Adventurers of England Trading into Hudson Bay.

The title, French-Canadian in flavour, has been especially created for him. This is partly because Sir Winston's ancestor, the Duke of Marlborough, was the Hudson's Bay Company's Governor from 1685 to 1691, but chiefly because the Company wishes to be linked with "the most epic figure in the world."

It was typical of this grand old adventurer that in his speech he spoke more of the future than the past. He did not dwell on the Company's long history, but spoke of the glowing future awaiting it in the rapid development which is now going on in Canada.

Think on These Things

IN the East the shepherd does not drive his sheep but goes in front of them, and they follow him. Jesus, the good shepherd, has gone before us. He has led the perfect life of obedience to God.

He was tempted just as we are, and yet was without any sin. He has given us the perfect example.

But He also gives us the grace and power to follow that example. He brings us into His fold, the Church. In that Church He gives us nourishment, the strength and help to enable us to overcome temptation.

The Eastern shepherd would risk his life for his precious sheep. Jesus showed His love by freely giving His life for us. When we realise the greatness of His love we realise how much it matters what we do with our life. O. R. C.

JUST AN IDEA

As Voltaire wrote: Not to be occupied and not to exist amount to the same thing.

Not-so-silent depths

STRANGE sounds will assail our ears if ever the noises made by fish are broadcast. A weird chorus is reported by scientists who have been listening to them through microphones lowered deep into the sea.

One fish, they say, sounds "like an elephant eating a wooden chest," and another like someone hitting a barrel. Toadfish growl, others groan, whistle, or tap, while shrimps provide a sort of general accompaniment of clicking like knitting needles.

It is all very interesting, but most people would rather read about this uproar than hear it. There is enough assorted noise on dry land without the addition of the deep sea Babel.

Don Giovanni sings

An exhibition of German painting from 1850 to 1950 is being held at the Tate Gallery, London, until June 10. Many of the pictures are by artists whose work is seldom seen in this country. Here is a lively portrait, by Max Slevogt, of the Portuguese baritone Francisco d'Andrade, famous all over Europe 60 years ago. He is seen as he appeared in the name-part of Mozart's Don Giovanni.

Thirty Years Ago

From the Children's Newspaper, May 15 and 22, 1926

THE General Strike began at midnight on May 3. The citizens of this country woke on that Tuesday morning to find themselves in a strange new world indeed.

To begin with, most of them had to walk to work. All journeying about the country, on business or on pleasure, had come almost to a full stop. Building (except on houses) stopped, the dockers were idle, and, strangest of all, the newspapers were almost completely suspended.

But there had been time for some preparation, and from the first moment of the General Strike the citizens, mainly under the leadership of the Government, slowly but steadily built up organisations of their own to replace those abandoned by the strikers.

THEY SAY . . .

MODERN gadgets are making life at sea considerably easier than it used to be, but I expect it will be some time yet before we manage to control the wind and weather.

The Duke of Edinburgh

I ALWAYS walk up escalators and I have often wondered what I did with the half-minute saved.

Sir Godfrey Ince

THE British Empire is not breaking up. It is growing up.

Mr. Lennox-Boyd, Colonial Secretary

AMAZING thing about English life is your extreme politeness. Have you considered how many times you say "Thank you" in a single day?

An American visitor

QUIZ CORNER

1. What is the colour of the holly flower?
2. Arrange the following capitals in their order of nearness to the North Pole. Berlin, London, Paris, Moscow, Copenhagen.
3. Who was Anne Hathaway?
4. How many legs has a caterpillar?
5. How many are there in a complete set of Apostle spoons?
6. Who wrote: "If you can keep your head when all about you are losing theirs and blaming it on you . . ."?

Answers on page 12

Out and About

AMONG the blessings of this time of year are the lilacs in gardens and parks. The pyramid-clusters of pale purple or white are beautiful to see, but they also fill the surrounding air with sweet perfume.

One wonders if the bees are drawn by the sight or the scent of lilac. In sunny hours a sound of busy and contented humming comes from each flowering bush, and loitering for a moment you could believe yourself in "the country."

The lilac seems to mean early summer in England, and American poets have reminded us that it migrated from here to New England and became a favourite there.

Yet in fact the lilac, like the old garden roses, was introduced into this country from Persia and Turkey. Indeed the white variety was long known as Persian lilac. C. D. D.

TRUTH ABOUT TROUBLES

THROUGH a long life I have encountered many troubles most of which have never happened.

Mark Twain

Next Week's Birthdays

May 20

Sir William Lawther (1889). A former President of the National Union of Mineworkers and of the Trades Union Congress. Born in a Northumberland mining village, he went to the colliery school and to the Central Labour College. Entered Parliament in 1929.

May 21

Alexander Pope (1688–1744). Poet. A studious boy handicapped by a serious illness, he was allowed to follow his early bent for verse. At 24 he had made a name for himself with his social satire, The Rape of the Lock. His translation of Homer won him riches as well as fame.

May 22

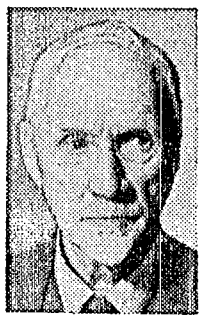
Sir Laurence Olivier (1907). Leading actor of stage and screen, he began his career at 15 at a Stratford-on-Avon festival. He played the title roles in those great films Henry V, Hamlet, and Richard III besides directing them, and brought Shakespearean drama in all its glory to vast new audiences.

May 23

Thomas Hood (1799–1845). Poet. Famous for humorous verse, he could also write moving and bitter commentary on his times, such as The Song of the Shirt, protesting against harsh labour conditions.

May 24

Field-Marshal Smuts (1870–1950). Soldier, statesman, patriot. Born in Cape Colony, he went to Cambridge and studied law. Fought against the British in the Boer War as a daring guerilla leader but later rallied to the cause of Anglo-South African co-operation. In later years was a great counsellor of the Commonwealth of which he was the symbol to the world.



May 25

Richard Dimbleby (1913). As commentator for the BBC his voice and face have long been familiar to listeners and viewers on great national occasions. He is also editor-in-chief of a group of local newspapers.

May 26

Queen Mary (1867–1953). Queen Consort of George V and one of the most beloved royal figures in history. She was a staunch worker for women's organisations and all her life a collector of beautiful things.

OUR HOMELAND

Ruins of the ancient abbey at Much Wenlock, Salop

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REPORT ON WILD LIFE

RARE CUCKOO AND COMMON HERON

MANY of you will have listened for your first cuckoo and entered its date in your Nature diary some weeks ago. But much rarer and earlier than the poet's familiar messenger of Spring is the great spotted cuckoo, and it was the most interesting bird in this Spring's migration.

The first specimen ever known in Wales reached a wood near Aberdovey. Mr. John Davies, the local postman who found it, told me how very interested he was, because only five other spotted cuckoos had ever been found in the British Isles. The new specimen is now in the Welsh National Museum in Cardiff,

The great spotted cuckoo, of which only six have ever been seen in Britain.

for it was unfortunately dead when discovered.

The spotted cuckoo nests regularly, as an early Spring migrant from Africa, in southern France. But it is much commoner in Spain, where it lays two or three crow-like eggs in the nests of magpies.

If you think you have seen one, at home or abroad, you will have noticed that it is totally unlike the common cuckoo. It is larger and is recognised by its crest and its long magpie-like tail. The grey and brown plumage is spotted with white, probably to mimic the piebald feathers of the magpie. In Egypt, the Holy Land, and the eastern Mediterranean, it lays its eggs in the nests of grey crows and sometimes ravens, and in the Syrian jay's nest. It is thought to be the cuckoo mentioned in Leviticus and Deuteronomy.

All animals and plants have Latin names, as you know, so that scientists of all nations can clearly understand each other. But this bird does not share with the common cuckoo the classical Latin name of *Cuculus*. Its loud and lusty voice, *ki-oo, ki-oo, ki-oo*, gained it the name *Clamator* (the Loud Crier).

Most bird-lovers seldom have the luck to see a rare bird. Their pleasures come from watching the commoner kinds. The heron, for instance, is slowly increasing in Britain, and a recent investigation showed that there were 520 heronries with 6225 nests in the British Isles. This was an increase of 19 per cent in the heron population as disclosed by a census of 28 years ago.

LARGEST HERONRY

The average British heronry has 21 nests, but the largest, at High Halstow, in Kent, had 129. Norfolk is the county with most heronries, then come Lincolnshire and Somerset. Like anglers, herons prefer the best fishing places. But the chief enemy of the heron is not the angler, but the woodman whose axe fells the tall trees favoured by the birds to support their bulky nests.

In Scotland a few herons are inclined to nest on cliffs instead of in trees.

Although many colonies change their choice of nesting trees from time to time, some heronries are very old. One at Portarlington, in County Louth, Eire, has been in existence over 117 years. The Isle of Man, which had no heronries when the previous census was taken, now has three small ones—at Kirby, Ballamoar, and Greeba.

25 NESTS IN ONE TREE

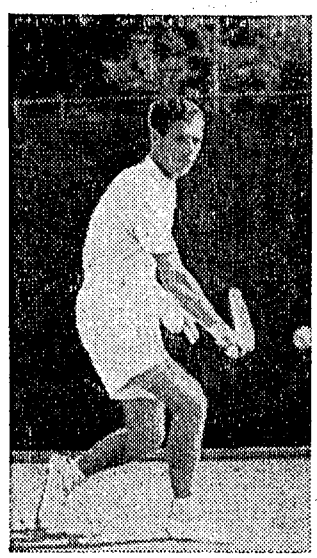
Near London there are heronries at Kempton Park (over 80 nests), in Richmond Park and Gatton Park, near Reigate; at Walthamstow Reservoir and near Virginia Water. The greatest number of nests found in one tree was 25 in an elm at Rolls Farm, Tollesbury, in Essex.

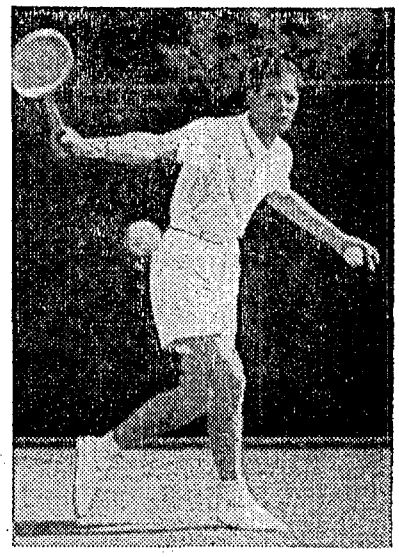
The average size of both English and Welsh heronries is now larger than before the war.

Herons also nest on the sea cliffs at Polkerris in Cornwall, on Sandwick in the Orkneys, and at Pointz Castle in Pembrokeshire. But at Stowgate Farm, in Lincolnshire, a pair upset tradition by nesting on the ground near the Great North Road.

E. H.

LEARNING TENNIS WITH TONY MOTTRAM





3. The Backhand Drive

Play the backhand in the right way, practise it regularly, and it will soon become a strong shot. The racket grip I use is best seen in the third picture. As with all tennis strokes you must be *sideways to the ball.*

Notice how quite early in the stroke preparation I have already turned into this sideways position. My eyes are watching the ball very carefully, judging its flight and speed. Notice also that I keep the head of the racket well up and control the start of the backswing by lightly holding the racket "throat" with my left hand. My weight is on the back foot as I prepare to step into the hitting position.

Here the backswing has been completed and the forward stroke is just beginning. My grip on the racket is very firm, to keep its head well up. This is a most important time to watch the ball very carefully. This picture shows the feet and body in the hitting position. Remember to bend the knees *not the back* to get down to the ball; *the head and shoulders must be kept steady* and not jerked up as the stroke is made.

Most important also is the feet position; the right foot well across and forward, turning the body into the perfect sideways striking position.

In this picture you can see the racket grip for the backhand stroke. First grip your racket as you would if it were a chopper; space the fingers slightly, particularly the first finger, and place your thumb *across* the handle, not along it.

The ball has been struck in this third picture and is going down the line. Notice how I have stayed *down* with the stroke, keeping my head and shoulders steady. Notice also how I have kept the head of the racket well up throughout the stroke. Always try to get control of the ball first and speed afterwards. This will build up with regular practice. Above all, do not be frightened of backhand strokes, remembering that many players have stronger backhand shots than forehand shots.

ISLAND VIGIL

Two Scarborough brothers are spending a lonely three and a half months on Brownsman Island, off the coast of Northumberland. Robert and David Lazenby, aged 21 and 22 respectively, are to act as birdwatchers for the Farne Island Committee.

They live in the only building on the island, a two-roomed cottage of stone, and fresh water is brought to them from time to time by fishing boat.

Thousands of Arctic tern and eider duck breed on the island, and part of the brothers' work is to stop people landing there this season. They also row in turns to the neighbouring Staple Island.

In any emergency the brothers will semaphore to Longstone Lighthouse, about 1½ miles away.

LIGHTHOUSE CHANGES HANDS

The lighthouse on Minicoy Island, in the Indian Ocean, recently underwent a change of ownership. At a simple ceremony, the Government of India took over the administration of the lighthouse from the United Kingdom.

The Imperial Lighthouse Service had maintained it ever since it was built, 72 years ago, and continued to, by arrangement with the Indian Government, until the latter was ready to take charge.

From now on six Indian lighthouse men will be in charge and the Indian tricolour will fly from the flagstaff. But the materials of which the lighthouse is constructed will serve as a reminder of its Western origin. It was built of Staffordshire bricks.

SWEETS BRING PEACE TO MOSLEMS

The Feast of Sweets, or Sugar, is a well-known celebration among children of Moslem countries. Each year it comes at a different time according to the moon, and it immediately follows the period of Ramadan, when no Moslem is allowed to eat or drink between sunrise and sunset.

The period of Ramadan lasts for 30 days and this year it began on April 12 and finished on May 11, so May 12 to 14 was the Feast of Sugar.

In some ways this feast corresponds to our Christmas; presents of sweets are taken to friends and old misunderstandings with neighbours are cleared up in the process—the sweets are a sweetener.

STAMP ALBUM

TWO WAYS TO SPELL NORWAY

FOR 400 YEARS NORWAY WAS UNDER DANISH RULE AND DANISH, SPOKEN WITH A NORWEGIAN ACCENT, BECAME THE COMMON LANGUAGE. IN THE 19TH CENTURY THERE WAS A MOVEMENT, CHAMPIONED BY AUTHOR ARNE GARBORG (1851-1924), TO USE THE OLDER FORMS OF NORWEGIAN. AFTER MUCH ARGUMENT MANY OLD NORWEGIAN WORDS HAVE BEEN ADOPTED. THE CENTENARY STAMP HONOURING GARBORG HAS NORWAY SPELT IN THE OLD WAY INSTEAD OF THE USUAL NEAR-DANISH FORM (RIGHT).

RARELY USED

THIS UNITED STATES STAMP WAS ISSUED FOR AIRMAIL POSTCARDS. BUT PEOPLE PREFERRED TO SEND A LETTER FOR ONLY TWO CENTS MORE. SO USED COPIES OF THIS ISSUE ARE VERY HARD TO FIND.

BIRTHDAY OF A TUNNEL

A NEW SWISS STAMP SHOWS A TRAIN LEAVING THE SIMPLON TUNNEL, LINKING SWITZERLAND AND ITALY. THE LONGEST MAIN-LINE RAILWAY TUNNEL IN THE WORLD, IT WAS OPENED ON MAY 19 JUST 50 YEARS AGO.

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MAMMOTHS OF MEXICO

Not long ago the bones, skulls, and tusks of three mammoths were dug up near a little village called Los Reyes Acozac, not far from Mexico City.

A great lake about 90 miles long and 30 wide existed in the Valley of Mexico some 10,000 years ago. But following a period of drought this lake gradually shrank till it split up into five minor lakes. It was on the borders of one of them the latest discoveries of mammoth remains were made.

There is ample evidence that not only mammoths but bisons, llamas, and a species of wolf used to live here. In the green mud which covered the bones, the remains of a primitive man were also found. And in this same geological layer two other mammoths were discovered in 1954.

DRINKING HOLE

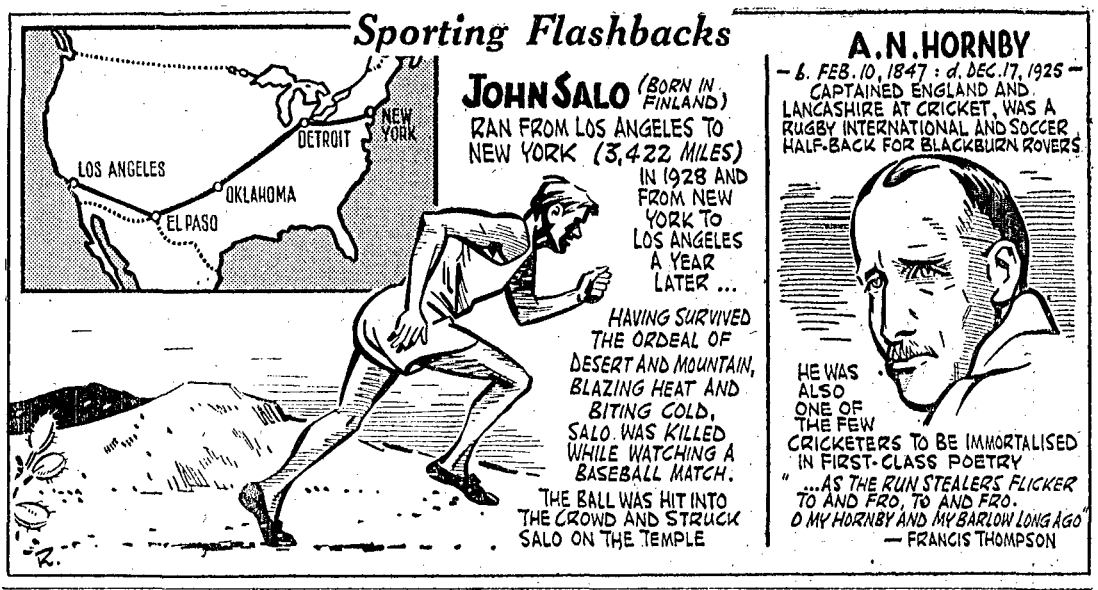
A solitary break in the crust of lime of some seven feet is believed to indicate that there had been a spring of water in that place, which must have been the drinking-hole of many animals in those days of drought. This was followed by an ice age, some 7000 to 11,000 years ago, covering everything with glaciers and the rock debris they brought with them, and explaining the good state of preservation of the numerous mammoth remains.

Groups of schoolchildren of neighbouring villages are being shown these excavations for the light they throw on the way our remote ancestors lived.

CASSOWARY PETS

The cassowary, which is Australia's second largest bird and is found there only north of Townsville, is now being reared as a pet in some of the outback cattle stations of northern Queensland.

Although they are extremely wary and ferocious in their wild state, there are many instances of cassowaries becoming household pets and keeping down mice and rats.



BRITISH TREES AND BRITISH FORESTS

Long, long ago Britain was covered by dense forest. It is believed that up to about 4500 years ago as much as three-fifths of our land was covered by trees. But today less than a sixteenth of it is woodland.

It was our ancestors who gradually pushed back the woodland and the way they did it is explained by Mr. H. L. Edlin, a forestry expert, in a splendidly illustrated book Trees, Woods, and Man (Collins, 30s.). It should be in every school library.

Stone Age tribesmen began the process of clearance. Their method, probably, was to cut a ring round the bark with stone axes, knowing that this would cause the tops of the trees to wither and let in light to the forest floor. They would then use hoes—they had no ploughs—to cultivate the exposed patch. After a few seasons they would move on to tackle another strip of virgin forest.

But new trees would not grow in the old clearance because the tribesmen's sheep and cattle, grazing there, would eat the seedlings.

And in succeeding centuries, Mr. Edlin points out, it was always "the busy teeth of cattle, sheep, goats, or ponies, fatal to the aspirations of young seedling trees," that prevented the forest trees establishing themselves again.

The Stone Age people were followed by Bronze Age men, who used ploughs. Tree stumps got in their way and they began to root them out. About 500 B.C. came the Iron Age Celts, who attacked the woodlands more vigorously still, and by the time the Normans arrived, it is possible that only 20 per cent of the country was wooded.

The growing demand for timber in medieval times made further inroads into Britain's woodlands, but in the 17th, 18th, and 19th centuries, landowners wisely planted new groves. Among the pioneers of these reafforesters was the diarist, John Evelyn, who in 1664 published his classic, Sylva, or a Discourse of Forest Trees, and the Propagation of Timber in His Majesty's Dominions.

In the 20th century the two wars caused an extensive felling of Britain's timber, to make up for lack of supplies from overseas. Today, steady restoration is in the capable hands of the Forestry Commission.

Mr. Edlin's book, however, is more than a history of British woodlands, fascinating though that is. He has much to tell us about how trees live and grow and describes individually the many different kinds found in our countryside.

All who love Britain's heritage of trees will agree with him that, "a land without great forests, like a country that lacks mountains or one that does not touch the sea, has something essential missing from its national life and well-being."

SEND US A CARD

Three postcards with Icelandic postmarks recently arrived at the headquarters of the Arctic Research Institute in Leningrad. They had been picked up in watertight buoys at various points off the coast of Iceland, whither they had drifted about 1200 miles.

The buoys had originally been dropped off the coast of Spitsbergen last year from the Soviet icebreaker Litke. From the information on the cards, scientists will be able to calculate the speed and direction of the currents which carry the Arctic icebergs into the Atlantic.

PENGUINS ON PARADE

Another Australian summer has just come to an end, and with it a nightly spectacle which has drawn visitors from far and wide. For at sunset every evening from last October till the end of April the procession of the fairy penguins has been watched on the shores of tiny Phillip Island, in Westernport Bay, Victoria.

The tiny birds have been at sea all day, swimming and fishing. Then as the sun begins to set one tiny head after another is seen popping up through the surf. The fairy penguins are returning with the evening meal for their young in the burrows scattered around the cliff.

During the nesting season the fairy penguin, not much over twelve inches tall, lands at the same place, almost to the same day every year, and waddles across the same track to the same burrow.

FOND OF COMPANY

Soon after dawn in the nesting season each penguin leaves its burrow, waddles down to the sea in search of food, mainly whitebait. These birds swallow all the food and then disgorge it for their young.

The fairy penguin has a strong sense of companionship. Should one arrive a little early in the evening, it will wait for ten or twenty of its friends so that they can march up to the burrows together.

This is the sight which draws the crowds, for the penguin can only waddle and climbing up these sand dunes is tough going. One of the birds is sure to fall over and roll down to the sand, only to rise and start the upward trek all over again, just as determined as before.

SCOUTS BUILD 4000 BIRD HOUSES

To protect the birds of Canada, the Boy Scouts of Windsor, Ontario, have undertaken to build 4000 bird houses. This is part of what Canadian Scouts call their Conservation Good Turn.

As their good turn, the Scouts of Cornwall, Ontario, are planting thousands of trees.

THE LION OF ST MARK—new picture-version of G. A. Henty's thrilling story (14)

Admiral Pisani was released from prison in response to the popular demand and given charge of the Venetian forces. He sent for the English lad, whose gallant deeds in recapturing the ships had come to his ears, and asked him to reconnoitre the enemy's position at Chioggia. Pisani's intention was to block the sea entrances to Chioggia so that the Genoese besiegers of Venice would themselves be besieged.

After dark Francis set out in his racing gondola with Giuseppi—now ransomed from slavery in Africa—and Philippo, a Chioggian gondolier. They ventured among the Genoese ships at Chioggia, the sailors taking them for fishermen. They noted the enemy's strength, and Philippo slipped ashore for a little while to gain more information. On the way back they were chased by galleys, but outstripped their pursuers.

On the strength of Francis's information, Pisani sailed down to Chioggia with the Venetian fleet and began blocking the town's connections with the sea. This he did by sinking old ships in the channels and filling up the spaces between them with piles of rocks. It was desperate work for his half-starved men; the Genoese showered them from the shore with arrows, and stone shot from their cannon.

After two days of toil and losses, the remaining Venetians were exhausted by cold and lack of food. They begged Pisani to give up the attempt and return to Venice. He reminded them that Admiral Zeno, who was away cruising with another Venetian fleet, might return. But the men had given up hoping for the appearance of Zeno. He had been away for months now, and there had been no news of him.

If the siege of Chioggia is abandoned, Venice is lost. See next week's instalment

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Continuing

BLUE JOHN SECRET

by Garry Hogg

My sister Nessa and I, with our guardian, Bruce, are staying in Derbyshire with friends of Bruce, Mr. and Mrs. Brownlow and their son John. One day when we are driving with Bruce our car is forced off the road by a driver whom we suspect of being after the treasure that John feels is hidden in Bleakshaw Cavern, an old lead mine. We get into the mine and find the treasure. Suddenly I suspect what the "treasure" is, and we get out as quickly as we can.

13. Bruce in peril

"You were quite right in your instinct of self-preservation," Bruce had said soberly, after we had finished telling our tale. "Those would indeed be lead bricks that you discovered; and—they will have been put there for a very good purpose."

"Tell——" pleaded Nessa.

Bruce shook his head. "Not now. Later."

"Promise?" I said.

"Faithfully," he answered. And that was that.

He had not been at the house when we got back, and we had decided on the way that we would not tell anyone else, not even Dick Brownlow, though as it happened he also was away.

"It is too important to tell anyone but Bruce," John had said.

But we had caught him late that evening, just as we were giving him up for good and were wondering how on earth we should be able to keep our secret through a whole long night. Sitting in a huddle in John's den, we had told him the whole strange story, during which he had looked graver and graver.

More important things

Then, "Bed now, chicks," he had said. "Pleasant dreams. And tomorrow—we will see what we will see. Meanwhile, it looks as though I have a spot more long-distance telephoning to do. Night-night!"

At breakfast next morning, though we were all agog, he seemed strangely calm and composed. But his eyes twinkled when, in answer to our urgent appeals, he said: "I think we had better all go up to the gliding-ground. Up there, we shall have our minds fully occupied with—really important things."

"But——"

"There is nothing any of us here can do for perhaps 24 hours," he said firmly. "So, let's put the whole thing out of our minds, for today anyway."

Well, of course the prospect of going again to the gliding-ground was a good second-best to embarking, as we had hoped to do, on the last chapter of this strange underground mystery that already we were calling the Blue John Secret, so we climbed cheerfully into the car and set off, hoping for the best.

"At least," Bruce said brightly to us when we were walking over to the Club House, "up here there is no risk of anyone trying to push me off a narrow road into a ditch on a blind corner!"

We walked past a big sailplane that we had seen once or twice before. One wing-tip was tilted into the air, and a man was bending over it, with his back to us, looking at something in the cockpit.

"Whose is that?" Bruce asked the C.F.I.

"Not a Club member's," was the answer. "Belongs to a chap who normally flies with another club. Dunstable, I think. Turned up here last year. And again this year, a day or two after you arrived at Dick's, as a matter of fact.

Sling Special

"I thought it was a Weihe, first time I saw it in the air," Dick Brownlow remarked.

"It isn't unlike a Weihe," the C.F.I. agreed. "Though actually, of course, it is a Sling Special."

"It's a lovely job, whatever it's name," Bruce said. "I wouldn't mind having a flip in her myself, if I could persuade the owner to let me."

"I doubt if he would," said the C.F.I. "He's not a good mixer. In fact, what you might call a cagey type. Knows how to fly, though; no doubt about that."

"I'll stick to the kite I know, for the time being," Bruce said. "Especially as I'm trying that five-star point-to-point today. Mind checking me, C.F.I.?"

"I'll take Lance up for a dress circle seat!" he answered, and whisked me off towards his own glider.

I did not need to be invited a second time! I tailed on to the cable, helped him slip the noose on to the nose-hook, and then hopped lightly into my seat. The Perspex closed down on us, the signaller flagged the winch man, and a moment later we were skidding across the turf, the cable humming and the wind whistling past us. Soon we were clear, soaring high above the ridge.

"Tip me off when Bruce is airborne," the C.F.I. said. "We've a lot of climbing to do first, so I hope he doesn't hurry himself."

Looking back, I saw Dick's plane catapulted away, with Nessa on board. Then came Bruce, flying solo in a small red plane, far, far beneath us. Then I saw a much bigger sailplane launched into the air.

Unnecessarily close

"Isn't that the Sling Special?" I said to the C.F.I.

"Quite right," he answered. And added: "Nice turn of speed, those Slings have. Much more substantially built than ours, or Bruce's. Cruiser-weights, you might say." He broke off. Then: "Hallo! He seems to be going unnecessarily close to Bruce, don't you think?"

The big sailplane was rather higher than Bruce's small red one, and certainly seemed to be closing in on him. I could see rudder movement at the tail of Bruce's sailplane, as though he was aware of this closeness and trying to put a little more air-space between his machine and the other. But the pilot of the Sling Special was putting on rudder, too, and at the same time dipping the nose of his craft.

"Hey!" the C.F.I. called out loudly, and in a startled voice. And then: "What the blazes are you up to?"

It was loud enough for me to hear, but it certainly would not be heard outside our Perspex hood. The C.F.I.'s face was stern. He frowned, and I felt our plane shudder as he banked swiftly out of its present line of flight.

Cold all over

"Bruce——" I could not prevent myself from yelling. "Look *out!*"

I turned cold all over. I could see now, what the C.F.I. had already suspected: the pilot of the Sling Special was bent on touching Bruce's wing-tip.

Bruce put on more rudder, and swerved, but he was just too late. Suddenly, deliberately, the big sailplane dropped and its port wing-tip was dipped so that it would foul the smaller, more fragile plane. We saw Bruce's plane dip

Continued on page 11

RADIO'S FAMOUS SCHOOLBOYS

Jennings and Darbishire will be back in the CN shortly in some rollicking new adventures

What's the new "SCALEX" model?

Here's good news for the hundreds of members of the "Scalex" Racing Driver's Club; wonderful news for the thousands of "Scalex" collectors and exciting news for motor-racing enthusiasts. Good news all round in fact—except perhaps for parents who know they'll just *have* to buy one to keep little Willy quiet. But there's compensation for you too, knowing that "Scalex" are quite the finest value in scale model cars with their "push down, pull back" no-key clockwork motor, at the remarkably low price of 5/- each.

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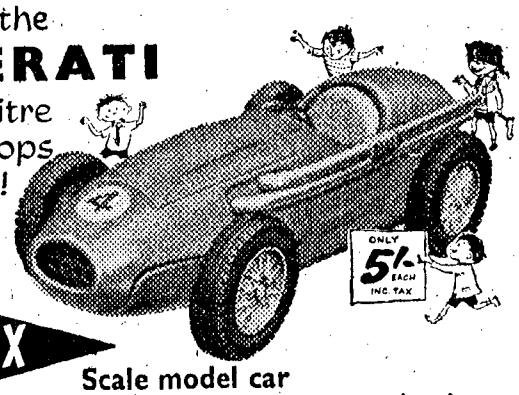

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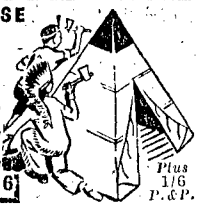

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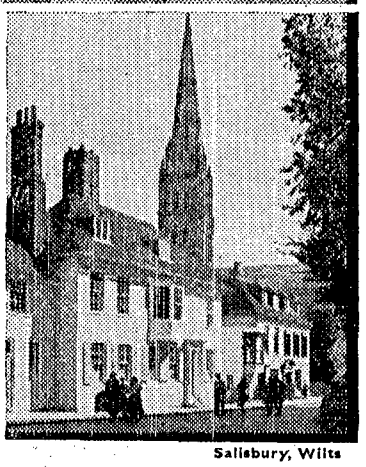

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SPORTS SHORTS

THE cricket law concerning appeals against the light has been altered for this summer's Test series with the Australians. Hitherto, the batting side has been allowed only one appeal a day, but under the new ruling there can be an appeal, if necessary, once during each of the three periods of a day's play. In County games, of course, the sole decision rests with the umpires.

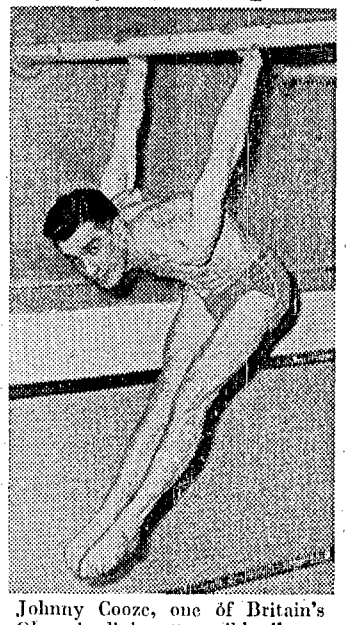
HOLLAND is making a great effort to raise the £50,000 necessary to send a team of 60 to the Melbourne Olympic Games. As well as a national lottery, special stamps, and a special football match, collections are being taken at schools, and owners of television sets who have visitors to watch programmes are charging two shillings "admission fee."

Landy's shoes

AUSTRALIA is trying to win trade in New Zealand, with the singlet and running shoes John Landy wore when running his world-record mile in Finland in 1954. They are part of an Australian "sports museum" now on tour in New Zealand's chief cities.

The museum also features Don Bradman's Test bat, Frank Sedgman's Wimbledon racket, and Ossie Pickworth's golfing trophies.

Olympic hope



Johnny Cooze, one of Britain's Olympic diving "possibles," gets down to some hard training at the Ironmonger Row Pool in London.

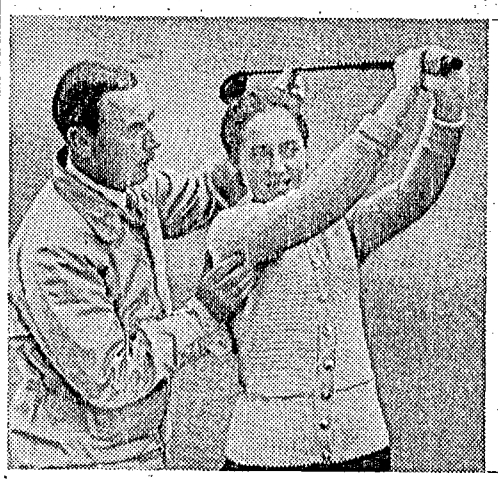
DURING Whitsun, a junior football international tournament will be held at Berrenrath, near Cologne. Watford Junior XI will represent England, and among the other teams will be four from Germany, and one each from Belgium, Holland, and Switzerland.

Proving them wrong

HARRY HICKS, the north-London Marathon runner, is hoping to be selected for the Olympic team. Yet only five years ago, after a serious operation, doctors told him his running days were over. And as a boy he was dangerously ill and the doctors feared for his life.

LARGE crowds are expected at the White City on Saturday and Monday, when the British Games will be held in conjunction with the Inter-Counties Athletics Champoinships. Leading track and field athletes from Germany, Hungary, and Yugoslavia are expected to compete in the Games. Surrey may win the Counties title for the 13th successive time.

ON Wednesday England play Sweden in a Soccer international at Stockholm—the sixth meeting between the two teams. After four defeats, Sweden won the last match 3-1 at Stockholm in 1949. The England players will then travel to Helsinki to play Finland on Sunday. The only previous meeting resulted in an 8-0 victory for England.



From skates to clubs

Yvonne Sugden, the champion skater, gets away from the ice rink for a few hours for a round of golf. Under the expert tuition of Albert Hedges, professional at the Coulsdon Court Municipal Golf Club, she practises her swing.

FRANK TYSON, the famous fast bowler, has often had trouble with his left foot. So after studying a film of him bowling, the British Boot and Shoe Research Association made a plaster cast of his foot. They then produced an anklet of soft, non-stretch leather and special boots with a cellular rubber heel pad in the left one. After successfully playing in the recent tour of the West Indies with these aids, Frank Tyson believes his foot troubles are now over.

Olympic cinders

CINDER SPECIAL was the name given to a train that went the other day from a works in Leicestershire to Immingham Docks, Grimsby. Its 50 wagons were loaded with cinders and ashes for the Olympic Games running track in Melbourne. This track will consist of cinders specially prepared from soft coal and two types of Leicestershire clay.

Stamp News

STAMPS worth a vast fortune are on show at an international exhibition in New York. Among them is the British Post Office collection, valued at £714,000; a display by the British firm of De La Rue and Co. which is insured for £50,000; and the unique one-cent British Guiana of 1856, valued at 100,000 dollars. The exhibition is being commemorated by a special stamp.

THE Ross Dependency in the Antarctic has no post office at present, but New Zealand is to issue a set of stamps valid only for postage there.

THE Pietro Annigoni portrait of the Queen is to appear on three Fiji stamps.

TWO centenaries Down Under are soon to be marked by a special issue. They are the 100 years of government in New South Wales, and the settlement of Norfolk Island in 1856.

SCHOOL books occupy quite a big part of Sandra Reynold's luggage as she travels to various tennis tournaments in this country. For Sandra, 17-year-old member of the South African tennis team, interrupted her school studies to come to England. When she returns home she will begin training as a teacher.

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LOOKING AT THE SKY

JUPITER AND REGULUS

Extremes of heat and cold

THE great planet Jupiter and the very much greater star Regulus are providing an interesting event for observers during the next six weeks.

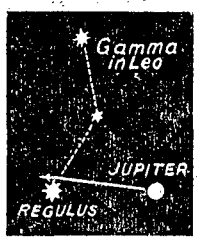
Jupiter may now be readily recognised high up in the south-west sky. It is the next brightest object after the radiant Venus, now at its greatest brillance, away to the west of Jupiter.

Apparently much nearer to Jupiter will be seen, to the left, the bright star Regulus, which is at present about ten times the Full Moon's diameter away from the planet. But in the course of the next six weeks Jupiter will gradually approach Regulus until it will be seen to pass close above the star, as indicated by the arrow on the accompanying star-map. It is of interest to note that though apparently so close, actually a tremendous distance separates Jupiter from Regulus.

RELATIVE DISTANCES

It is difficult to realise how immense this is except by using the speed of light, the fastest motion known, as a means for comparing their relative distances from us. Light travels at 186,000 miles a second, and as Jupiter is at present about 496 million miles from us, its light takes about 44 *minutes* to reach us; but the light from Regulus takes about 64 *years*. From this we learn that Regulus is about 778,000 times farther away from us than Jupiter. What wonder, then, that the planet appears so much brighter than the star.

Then let us consider the enormous difference in their sizes. Regulus has a diameter about three times greater than that of our Sun, or about 2,600,000 miles. As the average diameter of Jupiter is about 85,000 miles, that of Regulus is over thirty times greater.



Though appearing so similar to the eye, these two radiant bodies are actually vastly different.

Regulus is a raging furnace of flaming elements speeding in whirling streams and cyclones of fire across that great sun's rapidly rotating surface. Masses of streaming incandescent white-hot clouds of atomic elements cover that vast surface. These are continuously rent by eruptive outbursts and rapidly moving cyclones such as are to be seen with suitable instruments on our Sun. They are, of course, on a much greater scale and far hotter, averaging 12,500 degrees centigrade, whereas the surface of our Sun averages only 6000 degrees.

When we consider the vast extent and the colossal output of energy and elements that is taking place on Regulus, we may wonder if it will ever serve any purpose, such as our Sun does. There is evidence for believing that it may.

When we look at Jupiter, how very different is the scene could we but see it at close quarters. There all is frigid, and though Jupiter appears so bright to the naked eye, all this light is borrowed and reflected from our Sun; no appreciable heat emanates from Jupiter's surface.

Nevertheless, all is in rapid motion on this planet, in addition to its rotation in a little under ten hours. Terrific cyclones are much in evidence throughout Jupiter's "tropical" and equatorial regions; there the great masses of yellowish clouds are spread out into broad belts which are constantly changing.

Air, as we understand it, does not exist; instead there are whirling blasts of poisonous fumes, of which ammonia and methane appear to be the most plentiful.

G. F. M.

BLUE JOHN SECRET

Continued from page 9

steeply, and then begin to slide wing-foremost downwards. He was at a dangerous banking angle and had too little forward movement to save himself, except by a miracle. Another few degrees, and he would turn right over.

"Oh, Bruce!" I groaned.

The C.F.I. put out a swift hand and gripped my knee. "Hold it, Lance," he said. "Bruce will make it. He *must!*" I could see that he was now more desperately worried than furiously angry.

Bruce did make it. After an agonising minute while his sailplane seemed to flutter like a winged bird, he managed to right her, increasing his speed by diving steeply. Luckily he had plenty of height in hand. His plane came onto an even keel, tilted again, and steadied.

"Oh, *good man!*" murmured the C.F.I., and his tension relaxed. "And now for the other chap," he said suddenly, angrily. "He is not going to get away with —attempted murder!"

Retribution

The big Sling Special was skimming ahead of us, much faster than we could travel, as though its pilot well knew that his dastardly manoeuvre had been spotted and that we were on his tail, bent on retribution. He moved so fast at first that almost I could have believed he had a jet-engine secreted in his plane. With all the C.F.I.'s skill, we could never hope to hold him, let alone overtake him, in so small a craft as ours, and herd him back to the gliding-ground for interrogation.

The C.F.I.'s lips were set grimly and he leaned forward over his control-stick, tense as a jockey on a racing horse. And then, suddenly, for the second time, he relaxed. He sat back, his lips now parted in a sort of smile. "That devil has had it," he said briefly. "He doesn't know Mam Tor."

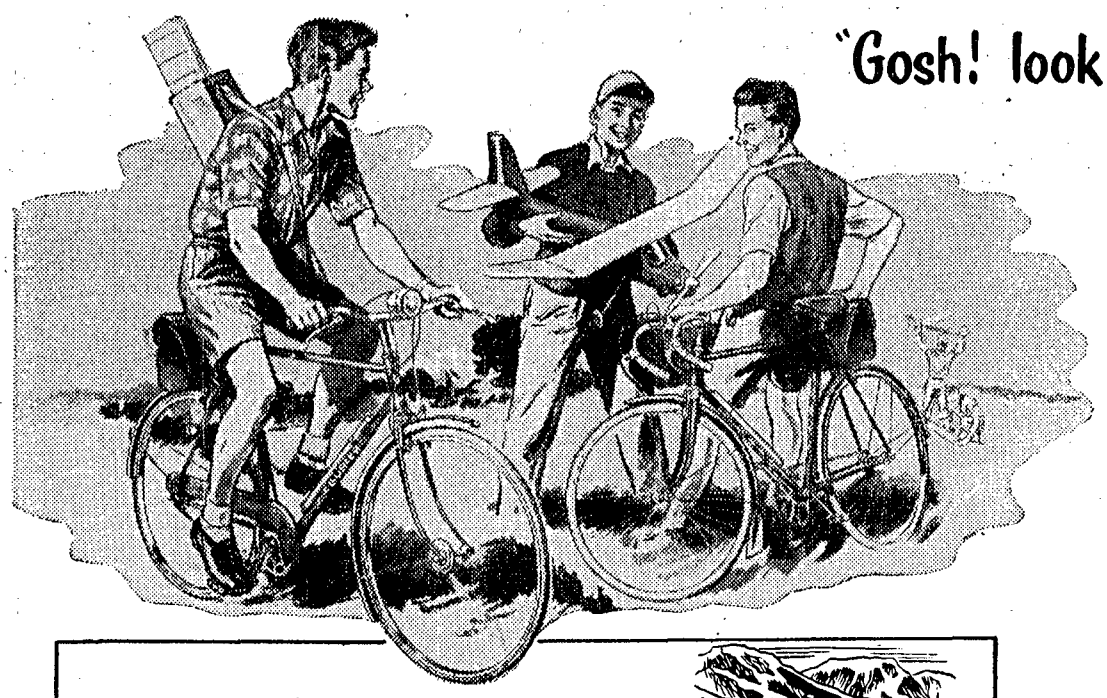
We had been past Mam Tor—the "Shivering Mountain"—several times. It is a high, precipitous hill with a curious sort of layered face that seems always to be shaking: hence its name.

Last dive

"What do you mean?" I asked the C.F.I.; but he said nothing, except to tell me to watch.

Then there happened something that made my blood run cold; something I shall never forget as long as I live. The big sailplane, whose pilot seemed to be seeking an escape route between two hills by following the famous Winnats Pass gorge, was caught suddenly by a downdraught. His plane shuddered and lurched in the air; it was exactly as though a giant invisible hand had gripped the fuselage from beneath. It gave a second, violent lurch, and then dived swiftly. It gathered momentum, and hit the sheer face of the Shivering Mountain, to explode in a thousand brittle fragments.

To be concluded



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THE BRAN TUB

CONVERSATION PIECE

"MR. CHAIRMAN," protested a speaker, "I have been on my feet for five minutes, but there is so much noise that I have hardly heard myself speak."

"Never mind," came a voice from the back of the hall, "you haven't missed much."

WHAT A CHANGE!

CAN you change:
An oven into part of chain;
Another oven into grain;
Edges into name for net;
A deed into domestic pet?

Answers in column 5

GOOD AS NEW

MOTHER was bathing the baby when her neighbour's young daughter came in. The girl watched for a moment and then studied her doll. It was very much the worse for wear; one arm was missing and one of the feet was cracked. She sighed and said: "How old is your baby?"

"Ten months," said Mother.

"My! You have kept her nice."

JACKO HAS A RATHER RUDE AWAKENING

THE TEASE

YOU'RE a nuisance, I declare;
You tease me so, it isn't fair;
You spring upon me everywhere,
And toss my hat, and clutch my hair,
And tie my clothes in knots and tear
The snowy blossoms from the pear.
I wish that I could set a snare
To catch you—but I shouldn't dare,
For though you tease me, I declare,
O wind, if you were never there,
I don't think I could manage, quite,
To sail my boat or fly my kite!

NOT HIS DAY

A CERTAIN popular cricketer was having an off-day. He failed with the bat, bowled badly, and dropped three catches. The final blow came when he left the field for tea. A small boy approached and sadly thrust a piece of paper into his hand, saying: "There you are, mister; there's your autograph back."

FIND THE PHRASES

Here are six familiar phrases which have been mixed up. Can you put each in its correct form?

THE Ancient Dutchman
Crocodile Yard
Scotland Seal
The Wandering Mariner
Solomon's Tears
The Flying Jew

Answers in column 5

BEDTIME TALE

THE REAL WINNER

LOOKING through an old copy of the CN one wet afternoon, Billy and Paul came across a tongue-twister. "Let's make up a tongue-twister ourselves," said Billy, "or better still; we'll each make one and Mummy can decide who is the winner."

For a long time after that there was silence in the room as the two boys racked their brains to think of words beginning with the same letter. They could think of lots of words but the sentence had to make sense, of course.

Finally they finished and went into the kitchen to tell Mummy about their test.

"All right," said Mummy, "read them out."

Billy began: "Lovely Laura looked long at lazy Leslie."

Then Paul read his effort: "Merry Mary Moon married mournful Mr. Masters."

Mummy thought for a moment. Then she said: "Bravo, blushing, bashful Billy. Barely bearable though it be, I believe Billy's is brilliant. But perhaps Paul's has possibilities. I perceive it is not perfect, but it is passable. It is pleasant, plausible, playful, and pertinent. At a pinch, I pick Paul as prizewinner."

Paul looked silently at Billy. Then he took hold of Mummy's hand and pushed it into the air.

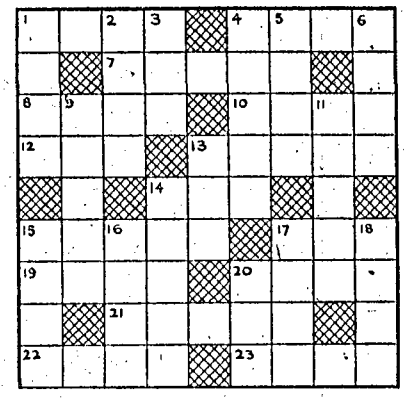
"The real winner," he said, grinning at Billy.

Crossword puzzle

READING ACROSS. 1 Damage. 4 Speak imperfectly. 7 Green spot in the desert. 8 It has gone. 10 Unhurried. 12 The first woman. 13 Strides. 14 Owns. 15 Weary. 17 Compass point. 19 Notion. 20 Where the sun rises. 21 Levels. 22 Neat. 23 Head of a cathedral.

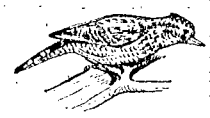
READING DOWN. 1 Expect and desire. 2 Flower. 3 Wipe your shoes on it. 4 Leans. 5 Land surrounded by water. 6 Animal's feet. 9 Shun. 11 Begins. 13 Mournful. 14 Weighty. 15 Shade of colour. 16 Water plant. 17 Comfort. 18 Famous school. 20 Finish.

Answer next week



SPOT THE . . .

WRYNECK, as his head peers snake-like from a hole in the tree.



This odd-looking bird belongs to the woodpecker family. It is about 6¼ inches long, the plumage above is grey-brown and beautifully marked, while the underparts are buff and delicately barred with brown.

One of its favourite tricks is to turn its head round so far that it is looking directly down its own back. Such contortions as this have earned the creature the name of snake-bird.

Like its relative, the green woodpecker, the wryneck is specially fond of ants and possesses a long sticky tongue to help catch them. Its staple diet consists of insects and their larvae.

CATCH IT

OUR first is in turbot and also in dab;
Our second in lobster and also in crab;
Our third is in herring and also in dace;
Our fourth is in salmon and also in plaice;
Our fifth is in mackerel but not in hake;
My whole may be found in sea, river, and lake.

Answer in column 5

WHY IS IT CALLED BULLY BEEF?

IN 1812 two Englishmen, John Hall and Bryan Donkin, started the first food-canning factory in the world at Bermondsey, South London. Many of the cans were labelled *Soup and Bouilli*, for at that time the French word "bouilli" (meaning beef boiled for making soup) was used in some English restaurants for "stewed beef."

These cans were supplied in great quantities to the Army and Navy, and the soldiers and sailors called it "bully," a word that still survives today in the name Bully Beef.

Tins of food preserved by Donkin and Hall were used to provision an Arctic expedition led by Sir William Parry in 1824. Specimen tins used in this expedition were kept at Greenwich, and when they were opened in 1939 the roast veal and carrots and gravy in them were found to be in excellent condition.

ANSWERS TO QUIZ CORNER

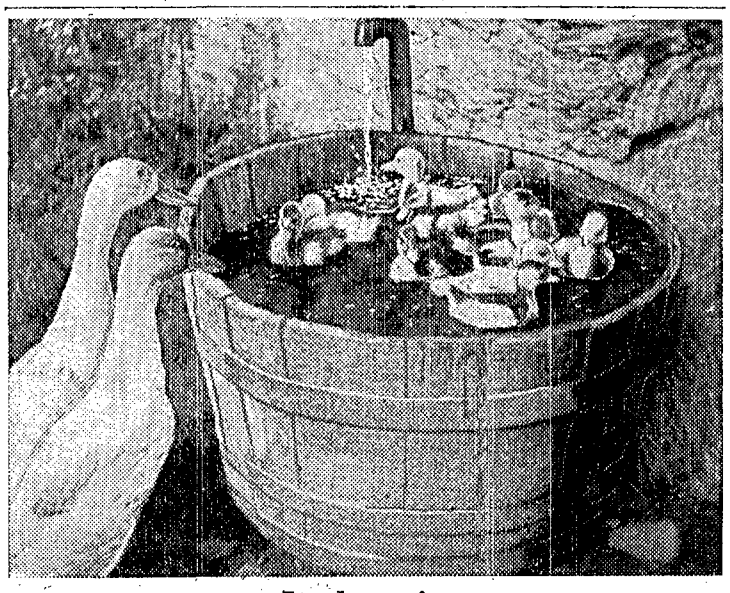
1. White.
2. Moscow (55.45 Latitude); Copenhagen (55.41); Berlin (52.32); London (51.30); and Paris (48.50).
3. The wife of William Shakespeare.
4. Three pairs of jointed legs, and several pairs of jointless legs which are rather fleshy and fat.
5. Thirteen, one bearing the figure of Christ.
6. Rudyard Kipling (1865–1936).

BRAN TUB ANSWERS

What a change! Kiln, link; oast, oats; hems, mesh; act, cat

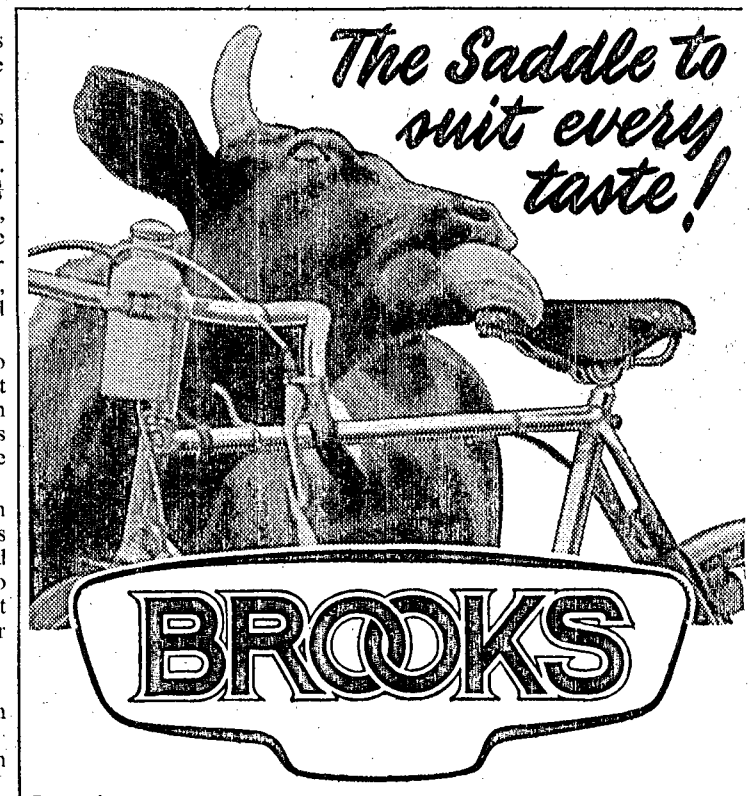
Catch it. Bream

Find the phrases. The Ancient Mariner, Crocodile Tears, Scotland Yard, The Wandering Jew, Solomon's Seal, The Flying Dutchman

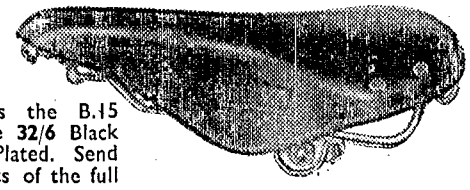


In the swim

A water-butt makes a fine swimming pool—if you are small enough. Mum and Dad obviously wish they could join in!



Even the cow seems to appreciate the high quality of the BROOKS Saddle as shown by this amusing photograph.



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CN WRITING TEST 1956

Another Test Token will be given in next week's CN

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